

# Circle T a pioneer in reclamation practices

The reclamation guidelines for oil and gas companies in Alberta used to be based on the processes that were required to reclaim agricultural lands. So, 25 years ago, when producers would reclaim well sites in upland forests, they'd end up leaving open meadow behind instead of forest. And when they reclaimed well sites in peatlands, they'd leave behind islands of upland forests within the wetlands.

But then Circle T Consulting came along and started addressing construction and reclamation practices associated with energy exploration in boreal Alberta.

"We investigate and encourage practices that are more attuned to the boreal landscape and its ecology, whether forest or peatland," says Terry Osko of Circle T Consulting. "That results in reduced disturbance impacts and more rapid recovery to natural conditions."

The company started large-scale upland and wetland experiments in 2003 and 2007, which have led to science-based recommendations for industry and government as well as improved planning, construction and reclamation best-practices in both upland and wetland environments.

"A number of companies have adopted our recommendations in their practices or used information from our studies to develop programs or strategies for land stewardship," says Osko. "We are very proud of this." Still other organizations have incorporated information from Circle T Consulting in their research projects, and development of programs and best practices.

The Vegreville-based company has also



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developed the collaborative workgroup iFROG (industrial Footprint Reduction Options Group) to reduce the size, intensity and duration of industrial disturbance in Northern Alberta.

Over the years, Circle T Consulting has worked with a number energy and forestry

companies, universities and government agencies. Osko is grateful for their "enthusiastic participation." And he's honoured to be a finalist for an Emerald Award.

"Celebrating environmental achievements with a program like the Emerald Awards is incredibly meaningful because it showcases how

extraordinary things are being accomplished by otherwise ordinary people," he says.

"Life is a gift, as is the abundance of the earth's resources and while re-gifting may be a faux pas in some circles, it is entirely what stewardship is about when it comes to the earth's resources."

## Moving the needle on carbon footprint

### *Mammoet reducing amount of fuel they use*

Mammoet Canada Western Ltd, a heavy lifting and transport company, owns and operates cranes, large trucks, light vehicles and self-propelled modular transporters that "move some of the largest loads on the planet from the factory to foundation." And they're also moving the needle on their carbon footprint by reducing the amount of fuel they use to power their equipment.

The company has introduced a number of initiatives: Engines have been substituted with smaller more efficient ones, administrative measures were introduced to reduce the amount of unnecessary idling of the engines when the equipment is not moving. And Mammoet has also invested in integrated Auxiliary Power Pack Units, an engineering solution that has achieved a significant reduction in the idling of large equipment during Alberta's long, cold winters.

"These units allow the engine to be turned off while keeping warm the hydraulics, electronics, fuel, engine, batteries and

operator cab during the cold Alberta winters and cooling the operator's cab in the summer," says Klaas Rodenberg, Quality Advisor at Mammoet.

"This not only saves direct fuel costs and reduces emissions but also extends the intervals between scheduled maintenance of the equipment and the associated resources such as mechanic time, parts, shop space, oil, lubricants and cooling fluids."

Another initiative, installing GPS devices in all their light vehicles, helped Mammoet develop strategies for turning off the engines. "In each of the first three months of 2015 the light vehicle fleet's idling improved over 2014 and the month before," says Rodenberg. The company has a goal of drivers reducing their idling by 20 per cent in 2015.

Mammoet's new facility, which opened in September 2014, consumes 50 per cent less energy and 80 per cent less water. The Edmonton-based firm is committed to managing their resources responsibly and



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reducing or eliminating waste.

"At Mammoet sustainability is more than compliance to environmental regulations; it is a culture of commitment that balances the needs of people, planet, and profit," says

Rodenberg. "Being a finalist at the Emerald Awards shows all of our employees that their efforts and commitment to a sustainable workplace is being recognized in the industry."